

# 2015 *ShapingNJ* Healthy Communities Grant Project Summary of Results

To address chronic disease and obesity in the State of New Jersey, the 2015 *ShapingNJ* Healthy Communities Grant Project awarded micro-grants to 30 organizations to make changes in their community. These changes make it easier for residents to eat healthfully and live actively.

#### **COMMUNITY CHANGES**

The 30 grantees worked to affect changes that make opportunities to consume nutritious food and be physically active more accessible to residents in the community. These changes are summarized below.



#### Opportunities for Healthy Nutrition

80% of grantees improved environments 60% of grantees improved policies

**58** Total improvements made

**Healthy** 

vending

1

Healthy corner store or bodega initiatives

Healthy food policies/programs

Point of purchase modifications

Community or school gardens

Farmers market efforts

Audits of the food environment

Organizational policies



### Opportunities for Active Living

74% of grantees improved environments
52% of grantees improved policies

**57** Total improvements made

13	Active transportation installations
12	Physical activity space developments
9	Organizational polices
7	Park improvements
7	Complete Street policy or street design changes
3	Street use changes
3	Safe Routes to School efforts
3	Community assessments

#### CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCCESSFUL GRANTEES

A sample of 15 grantees was selected to better understand improvements in their community and the resources attracted for their project. This sample of grantees positioned their grant project within the context of an integrated and evolving community development process. They were defined as "successful" and shared six commonalities, depicted below.

### <u>Committed, Mission-Driven</u> <u>Program Champion</u>

Successful grantees appointed or hired a designated program champion or project director. It was this person's role to manage the project, build trusting relationships with partners and engage community members.

# Community Listening and Responsiveness

Successful grantees relied on program champions, volunteers and other personnel that were ingrained in and trusted by the community to listen and respond to community needs.

#### **Municipal Government Support**

Successful grantees noted that municipal government support was important, though not an initial requirement, for making changes in the community.

#### <u>Diverse Partnerships Working Toward</u> a Common Goal

All grantees formed partnerships with trusted organizations.

Successful grantees emphasized that they collaborated with a variety of groups to address a common goal of improving the community.

# Keen Attention to Communication

Successful grantees reported that they communicated frequently and openly with their partners and community members.

## Leveraging Opportunities and Other Resources

A common factor mentioned among successful grantees involved taking advantage of new opportunities and partnerships, regardless of years of experience doing the work.

#### RESOURCES LEVERAGED

All 30 grantees reported attracting or leveraging additional resources in support of their current projects. Some grantees also obtained additional funding for new or expanded projects. A summary of the resources leveraged by grantees can be found below.



### Resources Leveraged by Grantees During Grant Period

73% of grantees leveraged staff time

67% of grantees leveraged project supplies or material

32% of grantees applied for and/or received additional funding as a result of the Initiative

**\$247,000** Additional funding received by 6 grantees (attributable to the Initiative)